

AMENDMENT

Subject matter to be added is in bold and underlined.

Subject matter to be deleted is in bold and strikethrough.

In the Claims:

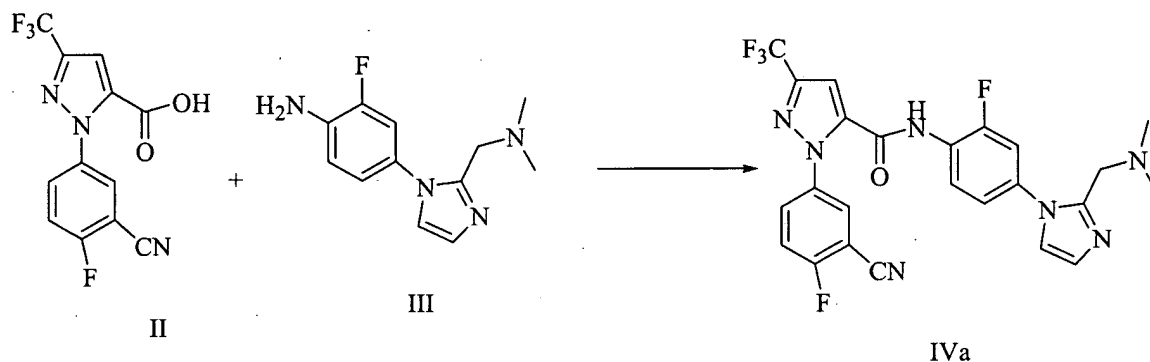
Please amend Claims 17-20 and add new Claims 32-37 as follows. Please cancel Claim 29 without prejudice to presentation in a Divisional or Continuation application.

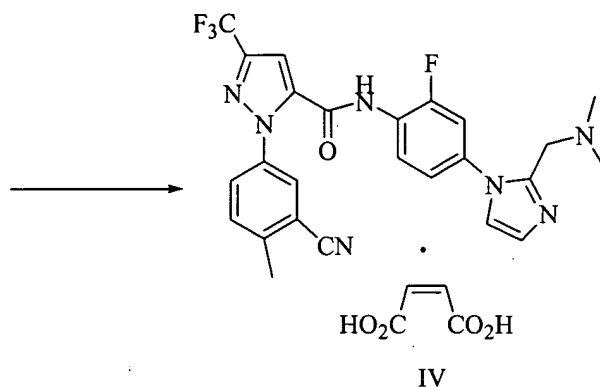
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) A process ~~according to Claim 1, wherein the compound of Formula IVa is prepared by the process~~, comprising:





(a) (b) coupling compounds of Formulas II and III to form a compound of Formula IVa;

(b) contacting a compound of Formula IVa with maleic acid to form a compound of Formula IV.

18. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim 17, wherein the compound of Formula IVa is used without purification in (b)(e).

19. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim 17, wherein (a) (b) is performed by contacting a compound of Formula II with an acid activator, in a solvent and a first base, followed by contacting the resulting solution with a compound of Formula III.

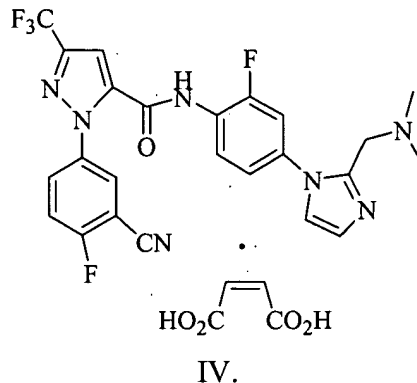
20. (Currently Amended) A process according to Claim 19, wherein (a) (b) is performed by contacting a compound of Formula II with oxalyl chloride in acetonitrile and pyridine, followed by contacting the resulting solution with a compound of Formula III.

21. (Original) A process according to Claim 20, wherein after a compound of Formula II has been contacted with a compound of Formula III, a second base is added to the reaction solution.

22. (Original) A process according to Claim 21, wherein the second base is diisopropylethylamine.

Claims 23-27. (Cancelled)

28. A compound of Formula IV:



Claims 29-31. (Cancelled)

32. (New) A process according to Claim 17, wherein in (b) the compound of Formula IVa is contacted with a second solvent prior to contacting with maleic acid.

33. (New) A process according to Claim 32, wherein the second solvent is selected from acetone, chloroform, ethyl acetate, MIBK, i-propyl acetate, i-propyl alcohol, and THF.

34. (New) A process according to Claim 32, wherein the second solvent is ethyl acetate.

35. (New) A process according to Claim 32, wherein (b) is conducted in the presence of a third solvent.

36. (New) A process according to Claim 35, wherein the third solvent is selected from 1-chlorobutane, heptane, hexane, methylene chloride, and TBME.

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37. (New) A process according to Claim 35, wherein the third solvent is 1-chlorobutane.